AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMS IS:

1. (Currently Amended) A trackable optical disc, comprising:

a first reflective surface comprising a wobble groove ~~having an attribute~~ trackable by an optical disc reader; and

a plurality of analyte-specific signal elements ~~investigational features~~ disposed readably with said wobble groove ~~trackable attribute~~, said plurality of analyte-specific signal elements ~~investigational features~~ arranged in a pattern to thereby function as encoded data,

wherein said plurality of analyte-specific signal elements are disposed confocally with said wobble groove such that they are readable concurrently with said wobble groove.

2. (Currently Amended) The trackable optical disc of claim 1 wherein said plurality of analyte-specific signal elements ~~investigational features~~ and said wobble groove ~~trackable attribute~~ are disposed to produce a signal ~~are~~ readable by ~~the same~~a single optical pickup of the optical disc reader.

3. (Canceled) The trackable optical disc of claim 1 wherein said investigational features are readable concurrently with said trackable attribute.

4. (Canceled) The trackable optical disc of claim 2 wherein said investigational features are readable concurrently with said trackable attribute.

5. (Currently Amended) The trackable optical disc of claim 1 wherein said ~~investigational features~~analyte-specific signal elements are disposed confocally with said ~~trackable attribute~~wobble groove.

6. (Canceled) The trackable optical disc of claim 2 wherein said investigational features are disposed confocally with said trackable attribute.

7. (Canceled) The trackable optical disc of claim 3 wherein said investigational features are disposed confocally with said trackable attribute.

8. (Canceled) The trackable optical disc of claim 4 wherein said investigational features are disposed confocally with said trackable attribute.

9. (Currently Amended) The trackable optical disc of claim 1 wherein said wobble groove ~~trackable attribute~~ is radially disposed.

10. (Canceled) The trackable optical disc of claim 9 wherein said trackable attribute includes a wobble groove.

11. (Canceled) The trackable optical disc of claim 2 wherein said trackable attribute includes a wobble groove.

12. (Canceled) The trackable optical disc of claim 3 wherein said trackable attribute includes a wobble groove.

13. (Canceled) The trackable optical disc of claim 4 wherein said trackable attribute includes a wobble groove.

14. (Canceled) The trackable optical disc of claim 5 wherein said trackable attribute includes a wobble groove.

15. (Canceled) The trackable optical disc of claim 6 wherein said trackable attribute includes a wobble groove.

16. (Canceled) The trackable optical disc of claim 7 wherein said trackable attribute includes a wobble groove.

17. (Canceled) The trackable optical disc of claim 8 wherein said trackable attribute includes a wobble groove.

18. (Currently Amended) The trackable optical disc of claim 1 wherein said plurality of analyte-specific signal elements are disposed with said wobble groove such that a signal from an ~~a~~ analyte-specific signal element of said plurality of analyte-specific signal elements ~~respective investigational feature~~is detectable as an amplitude variation in an HF signal ~~associated with said~~generated by tracking said wobble groove with a laser from an optical disc reader reading said optical disc.

19. (Canceled) The trackable optical disc of claim 5 wherein a signal from a respective investigational feature is detectable as an amplitude variation in an HF signal associated with said optical disc reader.

20. (Canceled) The trackable optical disc of claim 10 wherein a signal from a respective investigational feature is detectable as an amplitude variation in an HF signal associated with said optical disc reader.

21. (Canceled) The trackable optical disc of claim 18 wherein a duration of a signal returned from a respective investigational feature provides a substantially quantitative measure of the size of said investigational feature in the direction of disc tracking.

22. (Canceled) The trackable optical disc of claim 18 wherein a duration of said signal provides a substantially quantitative measure of the size of said respective investigational feature in the direction of disc tracking.

23. (Canceled) The trackable optical disc of claim 19 wherein a duration of said signal provides a substantially quantitative measure of the size of said respective investigational feature in the direction of disc tracking.

24. (Canceled) The trackable optical disc of claim 20 wherein a duration of said signal provides a substantially quantitative measure of the size of said respective investigational feature in the direction of disc tracking.

25. (Currently Amended) The trackable optical disc of claim 1 further comprising a first solid substrate ~~having a laser-distal side and a laser-proximal side~~, said first reflective surface and said wobble groove ~~trackable attribute~~ being disposed upon the ~~laser-proximal~~same side of said first solid substrate.

26. (Canceled) The trackable optical disc of claim 5 further comprising a first solid substrate having a laser-distal side and a laser-proximal side, said first reflective surface and said trackable attribute being disposed upon the laser-proximal side of said first solid substrate.

27. (Canceled) The trackable optical disc of claim 10 further comprising a first solid substrate having a laser-distal side and a laser-proximal side, said first reflective surface and said trackable attribute being disposed upon the laser-proximal side of said first solid substrate.

28. (Currently Amended) The trackable optical disc of claim 25 wherein said plurality of analyte-specific signal elements ~~investigation features~~ ~~is~~ are disposed on ~~the laser-proximal side of~~ said first reflective surface of said disc substrate on the side of said first reflective surface opposite of said first solid substrate.

29. (Canceled) The trackable optical disc of claim 26 wherein said plurality of investigation features is disposed on the laser-proximal side of said first reflective surface of said disc substrate.

30. (Canceled) The trackable optical disc of claim 27 wherein said plurality of investigation features is disposed on the laser-proximal side of said first reflective surface of said disc substrate.

31. (Currently Amended) The trackable optical disc of claim 25 further comprising a light transmissible coating applied to said first reflective surface opposite of said first solid substrate, wherein said plurality of analyte-specific signal elements ~~investigation features is~~ are disposed upon ~~the laser-proximal side of~~ said light transmissible coating on the side of the light transmissible coating opposite to said first reflective surface. ~~applied to the laser-proximal surface of said first reflective surface,~~

32. (Currently Amended) The trackable optical disc of claim 1 wherein said first reflective surface holographically projects a readable image of said wobble groove ~~trackable attribute~~ when illuminated.

33. (Canceled) The trackable optical disc of claim 32 wherein said holographic image is projected confocally to said investigational features.

34. (Canceled) The trackable optical disc claim of 33 wherein said projected tracking attribute is an image of a wobble groove.

35. (Withdrawn) An optical disc assembly having readable nonoperational data, comprising:

a trackable optical disc according to claim 1, and

a laser-refracting cover;

wherein said cover further focuses the laser of said optical disc reader on said disc's first reflective surface.

36. (Currently Amended) An optical disc assembly, comprising:

a trackable optical disc according to claim 1; and

a laser-refracting cover attached to said optical disc that focuses ~~the~~ light from a laser of said optical disc reader on said ~~disc's~~ first reflective surface of said trackable optical disc.

37. (Canceled) An optical disc assembly, comprising:

a trackable optical disc according to claim 10; and

a laser-refracting cover that focuses the laser of said optical disc reader on said disc's first reflective surface of said trackable optical disc.

38. (Withdrawn) The optical disc assembly of claim 35, wherein said cover is nonintegral to said disc and attachable thereto.

39. (Withdrawn) The optical disc assembly of claim 38, wherein said cover is reversibly attachable to said disc.

40. (Withdrawn) The optical disc assembly of claim 35, wherein said cover is moveably attached to said disc.

41. (Withdrawn) The optical disc assembly of claim 40, wherein said cover is hingeably attached to said disc.

42. (Withdrawn) The optical disc assembly of claim 35, wherein said cover consists essentially of a material selected from the group consisting of plastic and glass.

43. (Withdrawn) The optical disc assembly of claim 42, wherein said cover consists essentially of plastic.

44. (Withdrawn) The optical disc assembly of claim 43, wherein said cover consists essentially of polystyrene.

45. (Withdrawn) The optical disc assembly of claim 43, wherein said cover consists essentially of polycarbonate.

46. (Withdrawn) The optical disc assembly of claim 35, wherein said assembly has a radial diameter between 110 - 130 mm and a depth between 1.1 – 1.3 mm.

47. (Withdrawn) The optical disc assembly of claim 35, wherein said nonoperational feature is disposed upon the laser-distal side of said cover.

48. (Withdrawn) The optical disc assembly of claim 36, wherein said nonoperational feature is disposed upon the laser-distal side of said cover.

49. (Canceled) The optical disc assembly of claim 37 wherein said investigational features are disposed upon the laser-distal side of said cover.

50. (Withdrawn) A trackable optical disc having readable nonoperational data, comprising:

a first reflective surface;

a second reflective surface;

and

a data-encoding nonoperational feature,

wherein said first or second reflective surface has an attribute trackable by an optical disc reader and said nonoperational feature is disposed readably with said trackable attribute.

51. (Withdrawn) The trackable optical disc of claim 50, wherein said nonoperational feature and said trackable attribute are readable by the same optical pickup.

52. (Withdrawn) The trackable optical disc of claim 50, wherein said nonoperational feature is readable concurrently with said trackable attribute.

53. (Withdrawn) The trackable optical disc of claim 52, wherein said nonoperational feature and said trackable attribute are readable by the same optical pickup.

54. (Withdrawn) The trackable optical disc of claim 50, wherein said second reflective surface is semireflective.

55. (Withdrawn) The trackable optical disc of claim 54, further comprising a first solid substrate and a second solid substrate, each having a laser-distal side and a laser-proximal side, said first reflective surface disposed upon the laser-proximal side of said first solid substrate, said semireflective surface disposed upon the laser-distal side of said second solid substrate, said second solid substrate and said semireflective surface both being laser-proximal to said first solid substrate and first reflective surface.

56. (Withdrawn) The trackable optical disc of claim 55, wherein said nonoperational feature is disposed confocally with said semireflective surface.

57. (Withdrawn) The trackable optical disc of claim 56, wherein said nonoperational feature is disposed on the laser-distal side of said semireflective surface.

58. (Withdrawn) The trackable optical disc of claim 55, wherein said nonoperational feature is disposed confocally with said first reflective surface.

59. (Withdrawn) The trackable optical disc of claim 58, wherein said nonoperational feature is disposed on the laser-proximal side of said first reflective surface.

60. (Withdrawn) The trackable optical disc of claim 55, wherein said analyte-specific signal element is disposed between said first reflective surface and said semireflective surface.

61. (Withdrawn) The trackable optical disc of claim 50, wherein said trackable attribute includes a wobble groove.

62. (Withdrawn) The trackable optical disc of claim 61, wherein said nonoperational feature is disposed confocally with said wobble groove.

63. (Withdrawn) The trackable optical disc of claim 55, wherein said first and second substrates are reversibly separable.

64. (Withdrawn) A trackable optical disc system, comprising:
a trackable optical disc according to claim 1; and
an optical disc reader.

65. (Withdrawn) A trackable optical disc system, comprising:
a trackable optical disc according to claim 50; and
an optical disc reader.

66. (Withdrawn) A trackable optical disc system, comprising:
a trackable optical disc assembly according to claim 35; and
an optical disc reader.

67. (Withdrawn) A method of making a trackable optical disc having readable nonoperational data, comprising the step of: disposing a data-encoding nonoperational feature on an optical disc readably with a trackable attribute of said disc.

68. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 67, wherein said nonoperational feature is disposed confocally with said trackable attribute.

69. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 67, wherein said trackable attribute includes a wobble groove.

70. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 68, wherein said trackable attribute includes a wobble groove.

71. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 68, wherein said disc comprises a first solid substrate and a reflective surface, said first solid substrate having a laser-distal side and a laser-proximal side, wherein said first reflective surface is disposed upon the laser-proximal side of said first solid substrate, and said nonoperational feature is disposed upon the laser-proximal side of said first reflective surface.

72. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 69, wherein said disc comprises a first solid substrate and a reflective surface, said first solid substrate having a laser-distal side and a laser-proximal side, wherein said first reflective surface is disposed upon the laser-proximal side of said first solid substrate, and said nonoperational feature is disposed upon the laser-proximal side of said first reflective surface.

73. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 70, wherein said disc comprises a first solid substrate and a reflective surface, said first solid substrate having a laser-distal side and a laser-proximal side, wherein said first reflective surface is disposed upon the laser-proximal side of said first solid substrate, and said nonoperational feature is disposed upon the laser-proximal side of said first reflective surface.

74. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 68, wherein said disc comprises a first solid substrate, a reflective surface, and a light transmissive layer, said first solid substrate having a laser-distal side and a laser-proximal side, wherein said first reflective surface is disposed upon the laser-proximal side of said first solid substrate, said light transmissive layer is disposed upon the laser-proximal side of said reflective surface, and said nonoperational feature is disposed upon the laser-proximal side of said light transmissive layer.

75. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 69, wherein said disc comprises a first solid substrate, a reflective surface, and a light transmissive layer, said first solid substrate having a laser-distal side and a laser-proximal side, wherein said first reflective surface is disposed upon the laser-proximal side of said first solid substrate, said light transmissive layer is disposed upon the laser-proximal side of said reflective surface, and said nonoperational feature is disposed upon the laser-proximal side of said light transmissive layer.

76. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 70, wherein said disc comprises a first solid substrate, a reflective surface, and a light transmissive layer, said first solid substrate having a laser-distal side and a laser-proximal side, wherein said first reflective surface is disposed upon the laser-proximal side of said first solid substrate, said light transmissive layer is disposed upon

the laser-proximal side of said reflective surface, and said nonoperational feature is disposed upon the laser-proximal side of said light transmissive layer.

77. (Withdrawn) A method of making trackable optical disc assembly having readable nonoperational data, comprising the steps of:

disposing a data-encoding nonoperational feature on the laser-distal side

of a laser-refracting cover; and

attaching said cover to a disc having a first reflective surface with an attribute trackable by an optical disc reader;

wherein said data-encoding nonoperational feature is readable with said tracking attribute when said cover is attached to said disc.

78. (Withdrawn) A method of using an optical disc reader to read data encoded in a nonoperational feature of a disc, comprising the step of:

trackably reading the optical disc of claim 1 in said reader.

79. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 78, wherein said data are detectable in the optical disc reader's HF signal.

80. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 78, wherein said data includes dimensional information about the nonoperational feature.

81. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 78, wherein said nonoperational feature includes a wobble groove.

82. (Withdrawn) A method of segregating tracking signals from signals generated by readable nonoperational features disposed upon an optical disc, comprising:

disposing said nonoperational feature confocally with a trackable attribute that produces minimal variation in the HF signal during trackable reading of said optical disc.

83. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 82, wherein said trackable attribute includes a wobble groove.

84. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 83, wherein said nonoperational feature is disposed laser-proximal to said wobble groove.

85. (Canceled) The trackable optical disc of claim 1 wherein said investigational features include an analyte-specific signal element.

86. (Canceled) The trackable optical disc of any one of claims 2-34 wherein said investigational features include an analyte-specific signal element.

87. (Currently Amended) The trackable optical disc of claim ~~85~~ 1 wherein said analyte-specific signal element includes an antibody.

88. (Currently Amended) The trackable optical disc of claim ~~85~~ 1 wherein said analyte-specific signal element includes a nucleic acid.

89. (Currently Amended) The trackable optical disc of claim ~~85~~ 1 wherein said analyte-specific signal element is a cell.

90. (Canceled) The trackable optical disc assembly of any one of claims 36, 37, or 49, wherein said investigational features include an analyte-specific signal element.

91. (Canceled) The method of making trackable optical discs of claim 67, wherein said nonoperational feature is an analyte-specific signal element.

92. (Withdrawn) The method of any one of claims 68-77, wherein said nonoperational feature is an analyte-specific signal element.